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Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Ms. Nicole Vogel for your consideration. I have known Nicole for approximately eight years. For the last two of these years Nicole was under my supervision at the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg for her required parish internship program. She also completed a presbytery required Clinical Pastoral Education unit focused on parish based C.P.E. which I supervised. During my 42 years of ministry I have supervised many interns from numerous seminaries and during my 25 years as a Clinical Pastoral Educator I have supervised over a thousand C.P.E. participants. Of these, I would say that there have been five persons in particular that I consider super-stars. Nicole is one of these.

Nicole brings a depth of mature Christian spirituality to her ministry. Her life experience has served her well in honing authentic compassion and pastoral caring. Her counseling is adept, insightful and therapeutic. She is an excellent program designer and implementer. Her group process facilitation skills are excellent. As her major project, Nicole developed a support group process for cancer survivors which was not only successful but received great acclaim from the local medical and social work community. In her home church, she has served on the Mission committee and has strong experience in local and global missions.

Nicole works well with all generations genders and orientations. She is well received by all congregants. This is quite remarkable and she moves gracefully from children and youth to young and older families, singles, LGBTQ, Women's Circles, Men's groups, youth fellowships, confirmation classes, Women's Association, the sick and "Shut-Ins", and back to college ministry.

Nicole is a skillful administrator with established skills in management, budgeting, stewardship, moderating, committee resourcing and staff development. She can approach potential conflicts capably and with practical wisdom. Nicole is a committed Ruling Elder who participates in leadership roles in the Presbytery, which I am certain will continue when she is ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. She is approachable, charming, helpful, easy to work with, a skillful negotiator and has a good sense of humor.

Her worship leadership and organization skills are strong. In the pulpit she provides excellent, well researched, timely sermons, She is a strong vocalist and actively participates in the choir. She leads liturgy well, prays powerfully, and has a warm, inviting style which I characterize as "homey/high church." Her children's sermons are well received by the youth.

As Co-Chair of Lehigh Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, I can report that Nicole is much sought after for pulpit supply and beloved by many of our churches in transition. I speak for all of the officers of the Presbytery when I say that we are hopeful to have her as a Pastor in this presbytery. Finally, I want you to know that when I retired from active ministry in July of 2018, it came as no surprise that the Session of the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg contracted with Nicole to continue serving this Church as a half time Supply Pastor and provider of pastoral care as she completes her final semester in seminary.

I do not believe I could write a more glowing recommendation than this, although if I could, I would. Please know I recommend Nicole Vogel for your consideration with no reservations whatsoever. I am available to you should you have any questions. It is easy to sing her praises.

Respectfully,

Rev. Ed Freeborn